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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/099,623	03/14/2002	Jonathan Singer	1014-15	2266

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EXAMINER

HERRING, LISA L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1731

DATE MAILED: 01/10/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/099,623

Applicant(s)

SINGER ET AL.

Examiner

Lisa Herring

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 November 2004 and 14 March 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-55 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-53 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 54-55 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 March 2002 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☒ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election of Group II in the reply filed on November 30, 2004 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

Oath/Declaration

2. The oath or declaration is defective. A new oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.67(a) identifying this application by application number and filing date is required. See MPEP §§ 602.01 and 602.02.

The oath or declaration is defective because: It does not clearly identify the citizenship of each inventor. Citizenship of Victor Il'ich Kopp is listed as U.S. Permanent Resident. Citizenship for each applicant must be specified.

Drawings

3. The drawings are objected to because item 22, a monitoring unit, is missing from Figure 12. Reference to the monitoring unit 22 is on pg. 38, line 22. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief

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description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

4. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because the abstract exceeds 150 words. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

5. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

6. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: the acronym FTS on pg. 5, line 14 has not been defined, and in the specification item 206 is referred to as "a third stage" on pg. 25, line 29 and "the second process stage" on pg. 26, line 16. Appropriate correction is required.

In addition, any references referring to a U.S. Patent application must have the status updated along with identification of its U.S. serial number or patent number.

7. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 54 and 55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Epworth et al. (GB2188719). Epworth et al. discloses an optical fiber having a central longitudinal axis, comprising the step of:

a) imposing refractive index modulation along the central axis of an optical fiber in a first and a second configuration, where in the first and the second configurations are formed into a chiral structure. (See Figures 3a and 3b and page 1, lines 91-130).

Epworth et al. also discloses in figure 3b the optical fiber comprises a first end and a second end, and wherein said step (a) comprises the steps of:

(b) retaining said first end of said optical fiber (Figure 3b) by being held between two plane surfaces 3 and 4 with the two helical ribs

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- (c) retaining said second end of said optical fiber (Figure 3b) by being held between two plane surfaces 3 and 4 with the two helical ribs
- (d) imposing said refractive index modulation in one of said first and second configurations on said optical fiber, between said first end and said second end, to form said optical fiber into a chiral fiber grating (Figure 3b and pg. 2, lines 40-55) by pinching the two helical ribs between two plane surfaces 3 and 4

Epworth et al. fails to specifically disclose the first configuration of the chiral structure having a first pitch and a period, wherein said first pitch is twice said period, and wherein the second configuration of the optical fiber is formed into a chiral structure having a second pitch and a period, wherein the second pitch is substantially equal to said period. However, Epworth et al., on page 3, lines 5-11, discloses applying an element or two elements for a double-helix, around an optical fiber with the appropriate pitch for the required mode-coupling grating. Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have a first configuration of the chiral structure having a first pitch and a period, wherein said first pitch is twice said period, and wherein the second configuration of the optical fiber is formed in a chiral structure having a second pitch and a period, wherein the second pitch is substantially equal to said period, in order to vary periodic pinching of the fiber core for the advantage of obtaining the required mode-coupling grating, as disclosed by Epworth et al. (GB2188719).

Conclusion


10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Arnaud et al. (GB1501265) discloses multiple helical ribs applied to the outside of an optical fiber.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lisa Herring whose telephone number is 571-272-1094. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri. 7am-4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Griffin can be reached on 571-272-1189. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

L. Herring
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1731


DIONNE A. WALLS
PRIMARY EXAMINER